

Summary

The proposed changes are being made to comply with recommendations by AOSCA (Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies) after an audit of our standards was conducted last winter. The following is a substantive summary of the proposed amendments to the Seed Certification Regulations:

- 1) Add the AOSCA (Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies) policy for entering varieties into certification after appropriate recognition: by a national variety review board, a plant variety protection application, the Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD), or approval by another AOSCA member agency. This was already being followed by policy, but not written in the regulations.
- 2) Make some minor changes in the description of the classes of certified seed: Changing the term “grade” to “class”, and allowing the Foundation class to be produced from Foundation class. (This occurs occasionally where a portion of a Foundation field will be inspected very carefully and allowed to produce another generation of Foundation seed.)
- 3) Add an application deadline for Rapeseed and Eastern Gamagrass.
- 4) Add a reference that seed will be sampled according to the rules of the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA). Although many of these sampling procedures are already listed in our standards, the AOSCA recommendation is to reference AOSA as the standard for seed sampling.
- 5) Remove a confusing category under the Small Grains standards for Clean Seed. This category of “other varieties –doubtful” is confusing, and is actually included in the total percentage of other varieties allowed. This proposal is mainly for clarification.